

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01

L-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /117 W
----- 052700

R 271305Z MAY 74 ZFF-5
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6868
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3584

JERUSALEM FOR SISCO AND ATHERTON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MARR EG
SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE

1. ADMIRAL MCCAULEY TELLS ME THAT SCA ENGINEER RECENTLY ASKED THAT CTF-65 ALSO SWEEP STRAITS OF GUBAL, CLAIMING GOE REGARDS THESE AS PART OF SUEZ CANAL APPROACHES. STRAITS WERE APPARENTLY MINED BY EGYPTIANS, WHO ARE NOW UNCERTAIN HOW TO REMOVE THEIR OWN MINES. MCCAULEY HAS REPORTED REQUEST TO US NAVY, BUT GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO HIS INTERLOCUTOR. HE POINTED OUT, MOREOVER, THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIS HELICOPTERS TO RUN AN OPERATION SO FAR REMOVED FROM BASE SHIP.

2. WE DO NOT REGARD MIDDLE LEVEL SCA ENGINEER'S REQUEST, EVEN THOUGH HE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN SPEAKING FOR MASHOUR, AS A FORMAL GOE REQUEST. NOR, GIVEN LOGISTIC AND COST PROBLEMS, SHOULD WE INVITE SUCH REQUEST. IT WAS NEVER MENTIONED IN FAHMY'S INITIAL REQUEST AND, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, WAS NEVER A PART OF OUR PLANNING FOR NIMBUS STAR. BELIEVE BEST TACTIC IS FOR MCCAULEY TO CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE ANY SUCH
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PROPOSAL AND FOR US NOT TO RAISE THE ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS
THEMSELVES, ALTHOUGH SCA MAY HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN
US THAN IN EGYPTIAN NAVY. ALTERNATELY, THE FRENCH,
WHO ARE NOW BEING BROUGHT INTO SUEZ MINE CLEARANCE
OPERATIONS BY GOE, COULD BE GIVEN THIS TASK.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, DREDGING, STRAITS OF GUBAL, MINES-EXPLOSIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO03584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740132-0947
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740516/aaaaanrr.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EG, (MCCAULEY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005